

labor are becoming professions themselves. To be thoroughly equipped and trained in any line of work is to become a master in it.

The work of reeducation, because of its timeliness and its more direct appeal, has engaged the interest of the whole country. Here and there small societies are considering the idea of helping disabled men of some special class to be retained, while steadily and effectively the Government of the United States has set in motion a great machine of trained workers and vocational advisers to confer with the man; fit an occupation to his disability; send him to the proper educational institution where the training he needs may be obtained. The Federal Board pays for tuition, laboratory, library, matriculation, or such other expenses and gives him, if he is a single man, a minimum of \$65 per month, or a sum equal to that of his last month's pay in the service, as a support allowance; with support for his dependents while he is taking training. Nor does it leave him stranded with a training and no job. The Board keeps in touch with him and if it is a wage-earning occupation he is fitting for, obtains him a job, where he has a chance to make good.

It is estimated that there will be thousands of men who will need retraining.

The greatest percentage of these will not be amputation cases, but disabilities which will require as much if not more readjustment in a man's way of living. It is no more remarkable or necessary for a man who has lost his arm or leg to be retrained than for one who has tuberculosis. It is more spectacular; and these are the men the world would consider cripples. A cripple is a man who has lost an arm or leg or part of one or the other; but when he lost this and has gained a higher view of life and a greater efficiency, he is no longer a cripple. Only two per cent. of the men disabled in war will be too handicapped to take up life again as a part of the great scheme. There is hardly a disability which has not some job to fit it. From the men who have already returned to this country 12,000 have been in contact with the Federal Board. Some of these men are still in hospitals and are considering what they desire to take up on their discharge. Three per cent. of them are now in training for various vocations; agriculture, telegraphy, designing, tailoring, dairying, medicine, law, banking, and engineering are some of the courses which they have decided to follow.

This vocational retraining has its share in the problems before the country to-day. After every other war the industrial market has been flooded with inefficient veterans holding jobs which are narcotics to their sleeping ambitions. Vocational retraining is not a narcotic, but a prod. There are still campaigns for the returned soldier. The Nation has use of him in her future progress.

TELL HIM HE HAS A JOB.

The rapid demobilization of returning troops, the change from a war time program to a peace basis of the industrial factors of the country has brought about a condition of affairs that demands immediate relief.

Labor statistics from all over the United States show congestions of the unemployed in widely scattered districts, but particularly adjacent to ports of debarkation, notably New York City, where many demobilized men have remained instead of returning to their various points of enlistment.

The ready patriotism of employers has unwittingly added to the difficulties of the situation, especially on the eastern seaboard, where the "welcome home" has taken substantial form in the offer of every available position to returning soldiers, sailors and marines.

Most of the returning units so far have been

from other parts of the country and the current month finds us with a superabundance of labor on the eastern seaboard, practically all positions filled and units from the eastern districts just returning, to find the positions already occupied by men from other sections.

Every effort has been made to relieve the congestion, re-district the men and render labor conditions more fluid.

The United States Department of Labor, which has charge of the labor problem as it relates to the discharged fighting man, has established branches of the United States Employment Service all over the country in order to help soldiers and sailors readjust themselves to civil life.

In its capacity of offering emergency aid to the families of enlisted men the Home Service Sections of the American Red Cross have come closely in touch with these problems and have been able to relieve the situation to some extent both through their own assistance and through co-operation with other agencies.

Men who are in need of legal advice, medical attention, food, clothing, etc., are cared for. Nothing is left undone to enable the men to get back to work and the Home Service Section will stick by them until they find a suitable job. Men are encouraged to go to their home towns rather than settling down in large cities at points of debarkation.

Wherever it seems desirable to do so the Red Cross also gets into communication with the man's home town and secures all possible information regarding labor conditions at that point, returning him there or to the nearest adjacent point where he can secure proper employment. Many men have been transferred through this medium from congested districts to places where work abounded, but this continual debarkation and demobilization in such large numbers rapidly congests every known means of relief.

The next two or three months will be the period of the greatest stress. Many men, worn and nerve racked from the strain of trench life and used to the open, will welcome the always available opportunity for farm life, but farming will not open up, particularly in the North and West, for another thirty to sixty days.

Farming communities, particularly in the corn belt, will absorb a large number during the later spring months and will offer a wholesome environment, but jobs must be had NOW before the peak of the difficulty has been reached and the next ninety days will see the crisis of the situation.

Many solutions have been suggested as a measure of relief and it has been strongly urged that in all communities where local improvements are contemplated in the near future that the plans be rushed so that work can be commenced at the earliest possible moment. Building operations should be hastened to take up this surplus labor, roads in many parts of the country need immediate attention and factory renovations might in many cases be undertaken at this time—construction of all kinds has been impeded by lack of suitable workmen. Let every manufacturer and employer of labor give an introspective look into home conditions and advance his plans as much as possible to offer immediate relief before the situation becomes more serious.

In view of these facts the Red Cross urges employers of labor and community interests everywhere not only to prepare but to take upon themselves the special duty of urging their communities to prepare for the return of the demobilized man and to place in the hands of the authorized authorities for their district all positions that are open to returning members of the A. E. F.

Labor reports show an enormous surplus of unemployed in over 150 large cities in all parts of the country, with an ever increasing ratio. What will you do toward remedying the difficulty if the Red Cross gets the man back to his home town?